

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A balloon dilation catheter comprising: a tubular member having a proximal end and a distal end and an inflatable balloon disposed at the distal end of the tubular member. The tubular member comprises a first lumen disposed in communication with an interior of the inflatable balloon and a second lumen for receiving a guidewire substantially along the entire length of the tubular member. The second lumen has a first opening at the proximal end of the tubular member and a second opening at the distal end of the tubular member. A first slit is disposed longitudinally from the first opening along substantially the entire length of the tubular member to permit separation of the guidewire with respect to the second lumen. The subject balloon dilation catheter provides improved rapid exchange advantages of either the catheter or the guidewire used in a catheterization technique.